

DEC.
No. 15

DARK MYSTERIES

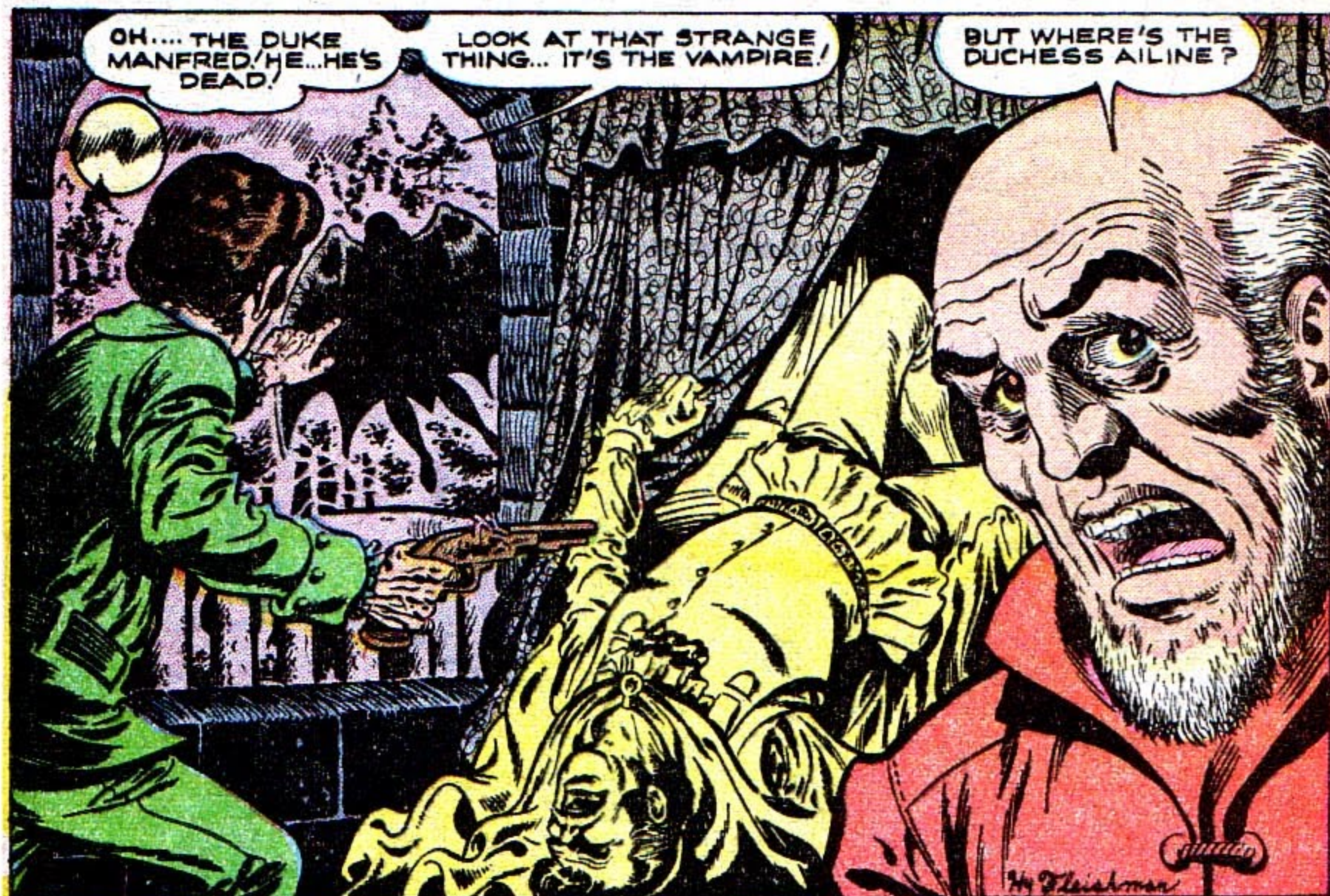
WEIRD TALES
OF HORROR!KISS ME, MARY!
NO ONE WILL EVER
FIND US HERE!WAIT... HARRY'S
COME BACK FROM
THE DEAD!NOW I HAVE THE
PICKAX YOU KILLED
ME WITH... YOU'LL
NEVER KISS AGAIN!TERROR OF THE
VAMPIRE'S TEETH



WEB COMIC
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YOU WERE A CRUEL MAN, AND YOU WERE PROUD! YOUR PEOPLE WERE UP IN ARMS! THEY DEMAND YOU FIND AND KILL THE VAMPIRE, THE SCOURGE YOU HAD FOUGHT WITH EVERY WEAPON! AS DUKE OF THE REALM, YOU TRIED TO TRACK DOWN THE OBSCENE, BLOOD-SUCKING CREATURE! YOU FEARED THE WRATH OF YOUR SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE... AND JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN CONQUERED, YOU MEET... THE VAMPIRE... FACE TO FACE! YOU FEEL ITS SHARP FANGS SINK IN YOUR SOFT THROAT, AND THE WARM BLOOD GURGLE DOWN THE THROAT OF THE HUNGRY MONSTER! BUT LITTLE DID YOU DREAM THAT YOU YOURSELF HAD CREATED IT... CREATED...

The Vampire with the Iron teeth



THE YEAR 1790 WAS FILLED WITH TERROR AND DEATH! YOU HAVE THE HEAVY TASK, AS DUKE OF DARLY, TO QUIET THE FEARS OF THE FRIGHTENED PEOPLE AND TO ROUT OUT THE SOURCE OF EVIL... A VAMPIRE!



YOU CALL ON YOUR TOP ADVISERS, MINISTERS OF STATE!

PEOPLE ARE DYING, DRAINED OF BLOOD BY A VICIOUS VAMPIRE, AND YOU MEN OF BRAINS DO NOTHING...

WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING... EVEN BROUGHT IN SORCERERS!



THE TOWN SURGEON AND SORCERER HAS A REPUTATION FOR DOING MANY THINGS REMARKABLY WELL! YOU HAVE SUMMONED HIM TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM...



I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, YOUR LORDSHIP!

YOU'RE A WISE MAN, HORTON. FIND THE VAMPIRE... WHAT'S THAT? THE DUCHESS! SHE'S SCREAMING...

THOSE SCREAMS AGAIN, OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL WIFE, AILINE... THEY FILL YOU WITH TERROR!

COME WITH ME, HORTON! PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP THE DUCHESS! FOR A WEEK SHE'S BEEN HAVING STRANGE ATTACKS!

I'M COMING, YOUR LORDSHIP!



AS YOU SEE YOUR SWEET AILINE PACING THE FLOOR IN AGONY, HER FACE WHITE, A HORRIBLE FEAR FILLS YOUR BREAST! COULD IT BE... SHE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY THE VAMPIRE?



OH... MANFRED... MY FACE, MY FACE...

DARLING... HORTON HERE WILL EXAMINE YOU!

BUT... BUT... HE'S A SORCERER! HOW CAN I HELP ME?

HE'S ALSO A SURGEON, MY DEAR!

IF YOU WILL LIE ON THE BED, YOUR LORDSHIP, PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU! WILL YOUR LORDSHIP PLEASE LEAVE US ALONE...



YOU HESITATE TO LEAVE AILINE ALONE WITH HORTON, BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO! SHE MUST BE RELIEVED OF HER AGONIES!



I'LL BE CLOSE BY, DEAR! HORTON, TAKE CARE!

HAVE NO FEAR, SIR!

OUTSIDE THE DOOR, YOU WAIT, WONDERING WHAT HORTON IS DOING TO AILINE... YOUR FEVERED IMAGINATION PICTURES A GRUESOME SCENE BEHIND THE CLOSED DOOR!



I'M BEING SILLY... HORTON'S A PERFECTLY DECENT FELLOW...

BUT YOU CAN STAND THE SUSPENSE NO LONGER AND YOU BREAK INTO THE ROOM!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY WIFE?

DARLING, HE'S HELPED ME! I FEEL BETTER!

YOUR LORDSHIP, IT'S MILADY'S TEETH... THEY MUST ALL COME OUT! I GAVE HER SOMETHING TO QUIET THE PAIN TEMPORARILY!

YOUR FEARS OF THE VAMPIRE HARMING ALINE ARE QUIETED, YOU FEEL GRATEFUL TO HORTON!

BUT WHAT WILL SHE DO... WITH NO TEETH? WHAT ABOUT HER GREAT BEAUTY?

I COULDN'T BEAR THE SHAME!



IN THOSE DAYS, FALSE TEETH WERE MADE OF CLACKING WOOD!

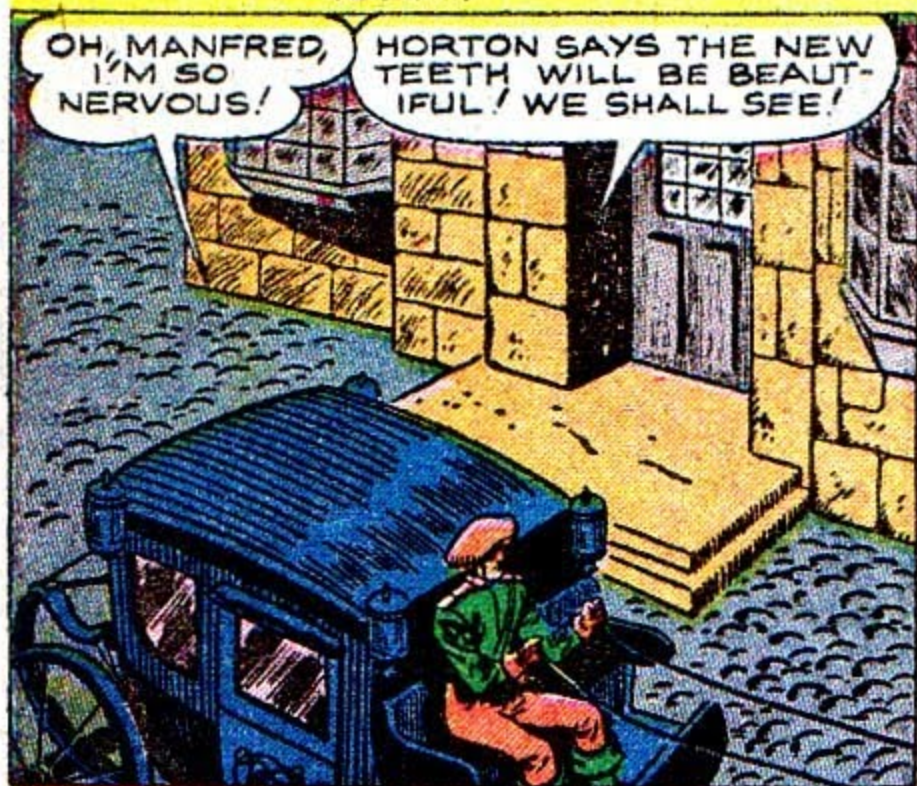
DO NOT WORRY! I AM ALSO A DENTIST... AND I WILL MAKE TEETH OF IRON INSTEAD OF WOOD! THEY WILL NOT CLACK!



THE DAY HAS COME WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR DUCHESS TO HORTON'S SHOP FOR THE NEW TEETH!

OH, MANFRED, I'M SO NERVOUS!

HORTON SAYS THE NEW TEETH WILL BE BEAUTIFUL! WE SHALL SEE!



THESE ARE YOUR IRON TEETH, MADAME! NOW I SHALL EXTRACT YOURS!

LOOK HOW THEY SHINE!



YOU ARE NOW VERY PROUD OF THE SENSATIONAL FALSE TEETH IN ALINE'S MOUTH! PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER FLOCK TO SEE THEM!

WELCOME, SIR GEORGE!

GREETINGS! WOULD IT BE PRESUMPTUOUS TO ASK TO SEE THE MARVELOUS NEW TEETH OF THE BEAUTIFUL DUCHESS?



NOT AT ALL, SIR GEORGE!



JUST THEN THE FUROR ABOUT THE VAMPIRE GREW AGAIN! THE DUKE'S GUARD TRACED IT TO THE VILLAGE OF HATLO!

THE VAMPIRE IS FROM HATLO! I BETTER TELL THE DUKE IMMEDIATELY!



WHEN THE DUKE RECEIVED THE NEWS, HE GAVE IMMEDIATE ORDERS...

WIPE OUT ALL OF HATLO! THEN THE VAMPIRE WILL DIE!



THAT NIGHT, ALL OF THE INHABITANTS OF HATLO WERE PUT TO DEATH!

WE WILL BE AVENGED... AAAHHH...

WE ARE INNOCENT!



AT LAST THE VAMPIRE IS DEAD, BUT... WHAT IS HAPPENING OVER THERE, BOY?

YOUR LORDSHIP, THE AMERICAN MINISTER'S WIFE HAS A REMARKABLE SET OF FALSE TEETH! EVERYONE'S ADMIRING THEM!



CURIOSITY IMPELS YOU AND AILNE TO SAUNTER OVER TO THE AMERICAN MINISTER AND HIS WIFE!

YES, SIR, THESE ARE FALSE TEETH!

BUT THEY LOOK SO REAL!

THEY ARE MADE OF IVORY!



SUDDENLY YOUR WIFE'S IRON TEETH HAVE BECOME A MONSTROSITY!

EVERY ONE WAS WHISPERING... LAUGHING AT MY SHINY TEETH! OH, MANFRED!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!



THE VERY NEXT MORNING YOU PAY AN EARLY CALL ON HORTON!

BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN FALSE TEETH MADE OF IVORY! I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GET IT!

HORTON, IF YOU VALUE YOUR PLACE AS TOWN SURGEON, YOU'LL MAKE MY WIFE AN IVORY SET OF TEETH! GOOD-DAY!



WHAT SHALL I DO, GRACE? WHERE WILL I GET IVORY?

I HAVE AN IDEA, HORTON!



GRACE'S IDEA WAS SIMPLE. BABETTE, WHO HAD BEEN EXECUTED, WAS CLOSE TO AILINE IN AGE ...TAKE HER TEETH...WHY NOT?

I'LL BRING HER BACK WHEN I'VE EXTRACTED HER TEETH!

HER BEAUTIFUL TEETH ARE PERFECT! THE DUKE WILL BE PLEASED!



STILL DISTURBED OVER THE PROBLEM OF AILINE'S TEETH... AN IRON MONSTROSITY NOW THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS IVORY ONES... YOU CANNOT SLEEP! YOU ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE HORTON SUFFER IF HE DOESN'T FILL YOUR ORDER!

AS THOUGH HE HAS READ YOUR MIND, HORTON APPEARS IN YOUR STUDY!

FORGIVE THIS INTRUSION, YOUR GRACE... BUT I KNEW YOU WERE ANXIOUS! SEE, HERE IS A SET OF IVORY TEETH!

HORTON, YOU'RE AMAZING! THEY'RE MARVELOUS!



WHAT IS IT, CYRIL?



IN HORTON'S SHOP, THE NEXT MORNING, YOU WATCH WITH SATISFACTION AS HE SETS THE NEW TEETH FOR AILINE!

THAT'S VERY GOOD, HORTON!



AS YOU BOTH RIDE HOME, YOU ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE NATURALNESS OF THE NEW TEETH!

ARE YOU HAPPY, AILINE?

OH... MOST CERTAINLY... MY BELOVED!



WEARY FROM THE STRAIN,
YOU RETIRE EARLY! AILINE
SEEMS ODDLY WAKEFUL,
EXHILARATED...

IS IT YOUR NEW
TEETH, DARLING,
THAT HAS
EXCITED
YOU?

OH...
YES...
MANFRED!

YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN YOUR
GENTLE AILINE ACT SO
STRANGELY! AS SHE MOVES
CLOSE, BENDING OVER YOU,
HER EYES GLISTEN... AND
HER TEETH SEEM MORE
POINTED THAN BEFORE!

SUDDENLY YOU FEEL ENVELOPED
BY THE WIDE SLEEVES ON
AILINE'S GOWN... AND A SHARP
PRICK STINGS YOUR NECK!

WHY DO YOU
LOOK AFRAID OF
ME, MANFRED?

AILINE, WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO
YOU? HELP!
ARRRRGHH!

THAT SOUNDS
LIKE THE DUKE!

LET'S
HURRY!

SCREEEAM
HELP! AARRRHH!

IT'S THE DUKE...
HE'S DEAD!

WHERE'S
THE
DUCHESS?

LOOK... AT HIS
NECK... THE
VAMPIRE
GOT HIM!

IT'S A VAMPIRE...
WHY... IT
LOOKS LIKE
THE DUCHESS!

WE MUST GO TO THE
CEMETERY AT HATLO
IMMEDIATELY!

AN OPEN GRAVE... SHE MUST
HAVE BEEN THE REAL HATLO
VAMPIRE... BUT HER TEETH
WERE STOLEN!

BUT... I PUT HER TEETH IN
THE DUCHESS' MOUTH!
NOW THERE IS A NEW
VAMPIRE LOOSE... WILL
I BE THE NEXT
VICTIM?

BASSIN'S
WIFE
DIED
HERE
HATLO

THE
END

HORROR OF THE CANNIBALS' DINNER

I MUST BE HAVING A NIGHTMARE! YOU'RE NOT MY BEAUTIFUL RISA... YOU... YOU'RE THE OLD WITCH! HELP! THOSE HANDS! HELP!



WHEN THE BRUTAL, SADISTIC, YOUNG KURT PALMER RAIDED AND BURNED THE PRIMITIVE KENYA VILLAGE OF CANNIBALS AND KIDNAPPED THE NATIVES TO BE SLAVES ON HIS PLANTATION, HIS BRUTALITY GAVE HIM UNCANNY STRENGTH, BUT THEN, HE BECAME STRANGELY, FEVERISHLY ENAMOURSED OF THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG PRINCESS CHARNA...AND LATER OF THE ALLURING, MAGNETIC RISA! HIS LOVE FOR THESE DARK BEAUTIES LED TO HIS HORRIBLE DEATH AND...
THE REVENGE OF THE CANNIBALS!

THE WEIRD CHANTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVES ROSE ABOVE THE CRACKLING OF THE FAGGOTS AS THE FIRE WAS LIGHTED TO BURN THE OLD WOMAN, LISAN, AT THE STAKE!

AAAAH!

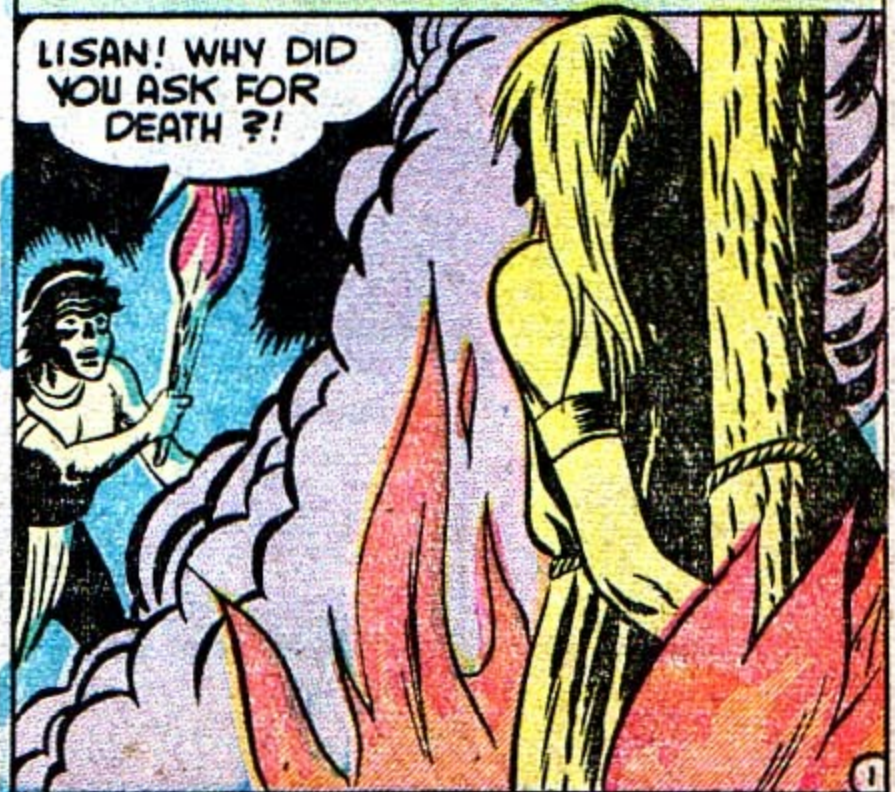
SAAAH!

GAANG!



SLOW TO START, THE FLAMES SUDDENLY ROSE HIGHER AND THE FETID STENCH OF BURNING FLESH STUNG THE NOSTRILS...

LISAN! WHY DID YOU ASK FOR DEATH?!



THEN OLD LISAN LIFTED HER HEAD AND A JOYOUS SMILE WAS ON HER CRACKED LIPS! THEN THE SAVAGE SINGING BECAME LOUDER, THE DANCING WILDER...

LISAN'S SMILING! SHE'S HAPPY!



WHY THIS TRIBAL ACT OF BURNING A HARMLESS OLD WOMAN? EVEN SAVAGES, BARBARIANS, HAVE THEIR CODES... AND LISAN, THE WITHERED OLD WITCH DOCTOR ASKED FOR THIS HORRIBLE DEATH... BUT WHY... WHY...?



JUST A YEAR BEFORE, LISAN WAS THE CHIEF WITCH DOCTOR OF HER TRIBE, CURING THE SICK AND INJURED WITH HER CONCOCTIONS OF HERBS, AND HER MYSTERIOUS INCANTATIONS...

OH, LISAN, BIBI IS SICK! CURE HIM, PLEASE!

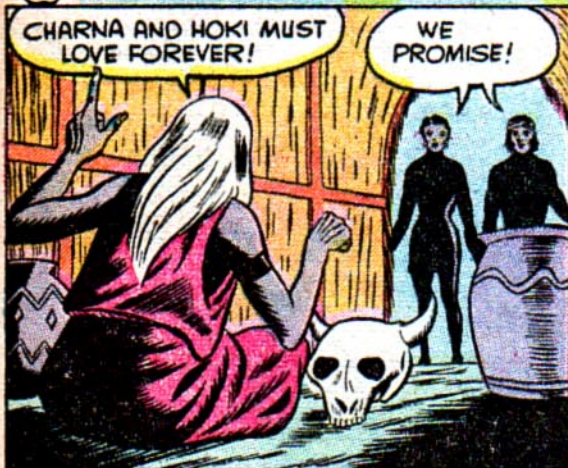
FAH, WAH, SING TI, AAAAH, A TOAD AND A SPRING AND THE DUNG OF A LION!



AMONG LISAN'S FAVORITES WERE CHARNA AND HER LOVER, HOKI, WHO ASKED HER TO MAKE THEIR LOVE LAST FOREVER...

CHARNA AND HOKI MUST LOVE FOREVER!

WE PROMISE!



TO THEIR PEACEFUL VILLAGE CAME ONE DAY THE MISSIONARIES...

PEACE BE WITH YOU, TAKE ME TO YOUR CHIEF! I AM MR. PALMER, SENT HERE BY THE WHITE FATHER ACROSS THE WATERS!



PALMER SPENT DAYS WITH THE TRIBE AND OLD LISAN FOUND HERSELF DEEPLY MOVED BY HIS TEACHINGS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN...

WE ARE REALLY ALL BROTHERS! YOU, LISAN, SHOULD STOP BEING A WITCH DOCTOR, COME INTO OUR WORLD AND LEARN MORE ABOUT US! THEN YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE AND TEACH THEM!

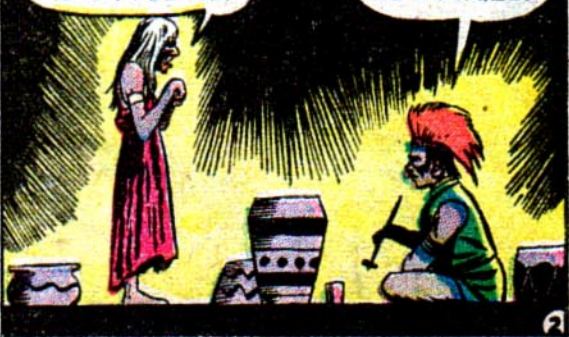
YOUR GOD IS STRANGE TO US... BUT WONDERFUL, MR. PALMER!



LISAN KNEW HER DECISION TO LEAVE WITH MR. PALMER WAS DANGEROUS, BUT SOME GREAT FORCE IMPELLED HER ON! SHE KNEW THE CHIEF WAS ANGRY WITH HER...

CHIEF MAHLI, I PROMISE TO COME BACK AND BRING NEW WAYS OF HEALING TO MY PEOPLE!

YOU MAY GO, LISAN! BUT NEVER FORGET YOUR TRIBE!



AT MR. PALMER'S SMALL RUBBER PLANTATION, LISAN WAS INTRODUCED TO THE NATIVE OVERSEER, KAFTA! SHE WAS SURPRISED AT THE POSITION OF IMPORTANCE A NATIVE COULD ATTAIN...

BE VERY NICE TO LISAN, KAFTA! SHE'S A FINE OLD WOMAN!

WELCOME, LISAN! IT IS GOOD TO WORK FOR MR. PALMER!



KAFTA WAS RIGHT! LISAN SAW HAPPINESS AMONG HER PEOPLE AND SHE WAS LEARNING SOME REMARKABLE THINGS OF THE NEW CIVILIZATION...

* WHAT STORIES I SHALL TELL MY PEOPLE WHEN I GO BACK!



AND THEN, TRAGEDY STRUCK...

QUICK! MR. PALMER HAD A HEART ATTACK! WHERE IS HIS ROOM?

UP THOSE STAIRS! BE GENTLE! OH, POOR MR. PALMER!



THREE DAYS LATER YOUNG PALMER ARRIVED AT HIS FATHER'S BEDSIDE! FEAR CLUTCHED AT THE OLD WITCH DOCTOR'S HEART AS SHE WATCHED THIS HAUGHTY MAN...

YOU'LL BE WELL SOON, DAD! WHY MUST THAT CANNIBAL HANG AROUND? I SHALL DISMISS HER!

NO...NO KURT, I'M FOND OF HER! SHE'S A GOOD WOMAN!



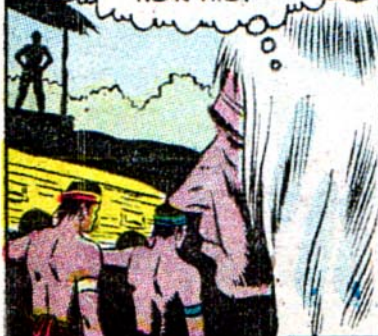
WHEN MR. PALMER DIED THAT NIGHT, A TERRIBLE PALL HUNG OVER THE PLANTATION! WHEN HIS BIER PASSED, THE WORKERS WEPT BROKEN-HEARTED.

LATE THAT AFTERNOON, MR. KURT SUMMONED THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE NATIVE WORKERS! A HEAVY SILENCE FELL AS HIS OMINOUS WORDS PENETRATED THEIR UNDERSTANDING...

YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT I AM THE NEW MASTER OF THIS PLANTATION! I SHALL EXPECT ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE!

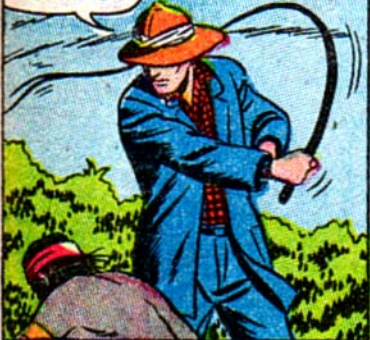
MASTER, OBEDIENCE... THOSE WORDS WERE NEVER USED BY MR. PALMER!

OH, HOW MR. KURT GLOATS OVER THE PLANTATION... NOW HIS!



THE NEW MASTER WAS BRUTAL AND HARSH! HE REIGNED LIKE A LORD OVER THE SMALL PLANTATION...

YOU CAN'T FAKE SUNSTOKE ON THIS PLACE! YOU'RE JUST A LAZY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!



KURT PALMER WANTED MORE LABORERS AND PAID A BAND OF HOODLUMS TO RAID LISAN'S VILLAGE...

THIS'LL BURN 'EM OUT! WE'LL CATCH 'EM AS THEY COME OUT!



THEIR VILLAGE BURNED. THE FRIGHTENED NATIVES WERE CAUGHT AND CHAINED...TO BE TURNED INTO SLAVES FOR HIM.

WE'VE GOT A GOOD CATCH FOR MR. KURT!



THE CHIEFTAN'S DAUGHTER, PRINCESS CHARNA, WAS THE PRIZE CATCH OF THE RAID...

MR. KURT SHOULD PAY PLENTY FOR THIS ONE!



THE COLD STEELY EYES OF THE MASTER GUSTENED EVILLY AS THEY LOOKED ON THE DARK BEAUTY OF CHARNA...

CHARNA WILL WORK FOR ME HERE, IN THE HOUSE! TAKE THE OTHERS TO THE TENTS!



MR. PALMER, YOUR FATHER USED TO PREACH KINDNESS AND BROTHERHOOD! YOU MUST SEND ME BACK TO MY BETROTHED!

YOU'VE PLENTY OF SPIRIT, CHARNA, AND YOU'RE EXQUISITE!



THOUGH HE MADE HER PEOPLE SLAVES, KURT'S DESIRE FOR THE LOVELY CHARNA WAS MORE THAN HE COULD RESIST...

YOU SHALL STAY WITH ME...

UGH...



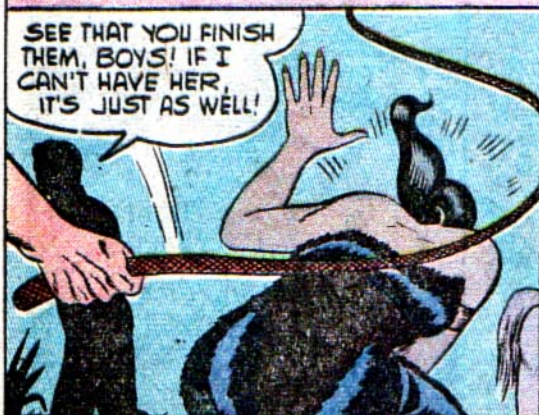
WHEN LISAN SAW CHARNA, SHE KNEW SHE MUST HELP AND LATE THAT NIGHT THEY MADE A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE...



BUT KURT'S MEN CAUGHT THE POOR CREATURES AND DRAGGED THEM TO THE MASTER...



BRUTALITY WAS THE VERY LIFE-BLOOD OF THIS STRANGE YOUNG MAN... THE MISFIT OFFSPRING OF A SAINTLY FATHER...



IN THE DARK JUNGLE, THEY LEFT LISAN TO DIE, BUT SHE MANAGED TO MIX HER ANCIENT BREW AND APPLY A MYSTERIOUS MIXTURE TO HER GASHES AND GOT BACK TO HER PEOPLE...



AND SO, CHARNA, WHOM LISAN LOVED, DIED...

SOMEHOW LISAN MADE IT TO
HER VILLAGE...

TRUST ME, I MUST BE BURNED
AT THE STAKE TONIGHT! BUT
FIRST, SMEAR THAT MIXTURE
ALL OVER MY BODY! YOU
MUST DO AS I SAY!

NO! IT
IS TOO
HORRIBLE!

IF YOU DO AS I SAY,
I SHALL BRING
BACK KURT
PALMER!
I KNOW HIS
WEAKNESS!

THEN WE
WILL DO IT!

TIE THE CORDS TIGHT! I
MUST NOT CHANGE MY
MIND IN A WEAK
MOMENT!

WE DO
WHAT YOU
SAY, LISAN!

AND THAT IS WHY THE OLD WITCH DOCTOR
WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE, AT HER OWN
ORDERS! NO ONE QUESTIONED WHY? BUT
THEY SOON FOUND OUT...



THE FLAMES SWEEPED HIGHER AND HIGHER,
AND LATER, WHEN THE FIRE BURNED OUT,
ONLY ASHES OF THE OLD WOMAN WAS LEFT.



ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER, MR. KURT PALMER
WAS STANDING IN HIS GARDEN WHEN A DARK
GIRL OF EQUISITE LOVLINESS WALKED TOWARD HIM.

WHY... WHO ARE YOU?
I DIDN'T HEAR YOU
COME IN!

I AM RISAN! I COME
TO WORK ON YOUR
PLANTATION!

IN ALL HIS SELF INDULGENT DAYS, KURT HAD
NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE RISAN! A FIRE
SEEMED TO CONSUME HIM AS SHE TALKED,
WALKED, GAZED AT HIM FROM DEEP POOLS
OF EYES...

SHE MUST BE
MINE!

YES, I SHALL
FIND A PLACE
FOR YOU!



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, KURT, THE MASTER OF ALL, BECAME THE SLAVE OF SOME-ONE ELSE...RISA! SO DEEP WAS HIS INFATUATION, THAT HE PLIED HER WITH GIFTS JUST FOR HER SMILE...



THOUGH KURT KNEW THE RISK OF GOING NEAR THE COUNTRY WHERE HE HAD RAIDED VILLAGES, HE COULD NOT BEAR PARTING WITH RISA... AND WENT ALONG PART OF THE WAY...



AS KURT EMBRACED RISA, A HORRIBLE CHANGE CAME OVER HER. FIRST HER FACE...



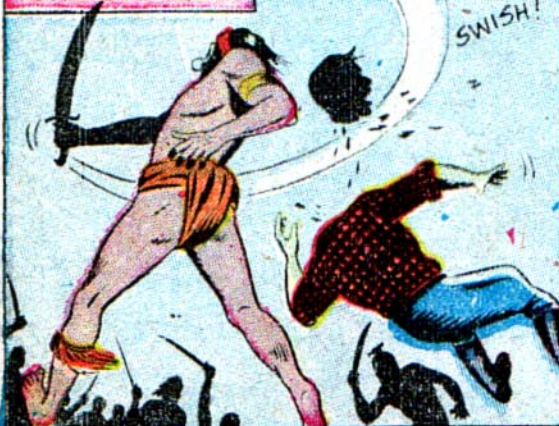
BY NOW RISA'S WHOLE FORM WITHERED INTO THAT OF THE OLD WOMAN AND KURT SHUDDERED AT THE SIGHT OF STUMPS WHERE HANDS SHOULD BE...



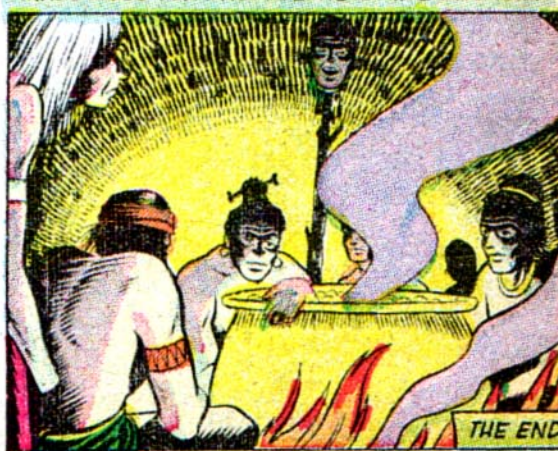
THEN AS KURT WAS ABOUT TO ESCAPE, LONG FINGERS CLOSED AROUND HIS THROAT...



THOSE DISSECTED HANDS HAD THE STRENGTH OF MANY MEN! IN HIS LAST CONSCIOUS MOMENT, KURT SAW HORDES OF NATIVES SWARM OVER HIM, SCREAMING, BRANDISHING LONG SWORDS...



AND SO, THE BRUTAL, SADISTIC KURT PALMER CAME TO A GRUESOME END, AS THE DINNER OF A TRIBE OF CANNIBALS... AND LISAN HAD MADE GOOD HER PROMISE... TO BRING BACK KURT!



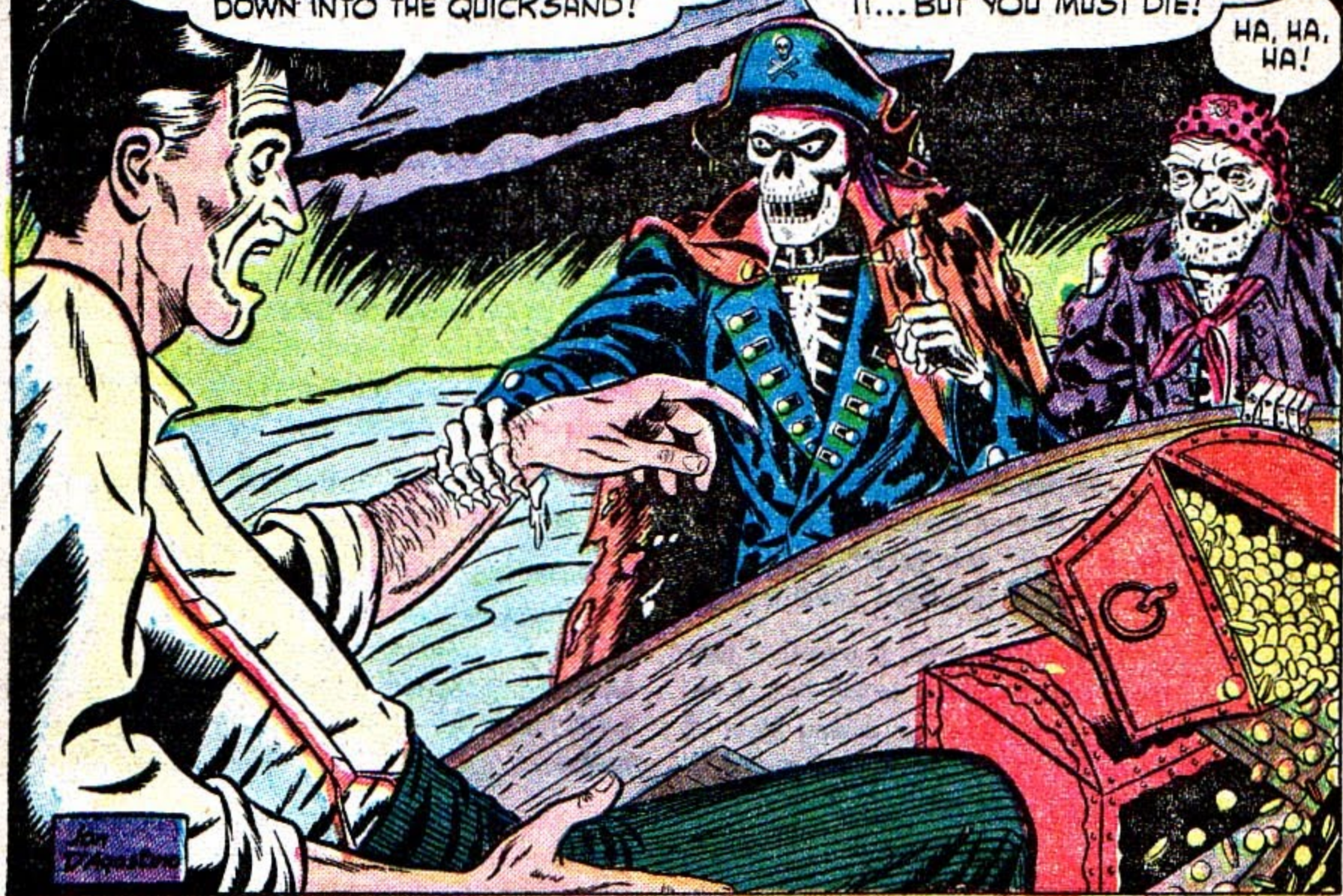
MEN LIKE YOU, PETE JUBEL, HAVE ALWAYS LUSTED FOR SUDDEN FORTUNE! FOR TWENTY YEARS YOU TOILED AND STRUGGLED FOR A MERE PITTANCE AND THEN YOU WERE FILLED WITH A DREAM OF TREASURE... A DREAM THAT CAME TRUE! BECAUSE OF YOU, YOUR SON AND DAUGHTER HAVE DIED FOR IT, BUT YOU HAD THE OLD PIRATE TREASURE IN YOUR GRASP... ONLY TO HAVE A PIRATE GHOST COME BACK FROM HIS GRAVE TO CLAIM IT... AND TO SEND YOU TO A

SLOW DEATH IN QUICKSAND

LOOK! YOU'RE SPILLING THE GOLD! YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL... JUST DON'T PULL ME DOWN INTO THE QUICKSAND!

THE TREASURE IS MINE, PETE JUBEL! I'VE COME BACK FOR IT... BUT YOU MUST DIE!

HA, HA, HA!



ALL YOUR LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN SEAFARIN' AND NOW YOU HAVE THE REPUTATION FOR BEIN' HARD-BITTEN, SALTY! YOU STRUGGLED WITH THE SEA THE HARD WAY, AND IT WAS TOUGH RAISIN' YOUR SON AND DAUGHTER! YOU WERE TIRED OF WORKING... BUT NOW, AN IDEA'S STRUCK YOU...

WE GOTTA GET OUT TO THE WRECK! COME ON, KIDS!

BUT IT'S JUST AN OLD PIRATE WRECK, POP!

DON'T GO, POP! IT'S HAUNTED!



THAT OLD LEGEND ABOUT GHOSTS AND TREASURE ON BOARD THE OLD "BLACK EAGLE"... WELL, MAYBE THERE *IS* TREASURE...

CAN'T BE ANY MATE ON BOARD THAT WRECK! HE'D BE OVER A HUNDRED!



AS YOU PULL ALONGSIDE THE OLD WRECK, YOU SEE...

OOOH...LOOK, POP! THE OLD MAN!

SO FAR, THE LEGEND'S RIGHT! THE FIRST MATE'S STILL ALIVE TO PROTECT THE TREASURE!



AS YOU CLIMB UP THE DECAYIN' SIDE OF THE BOAT, THE OLD MAN'S VOICE YELLS OUT IN A SHRILL, HIGH PITCH THAT MAKES YOUR BLOOD RUN COLD...

WHAT YOU WANT HERE, PETE JUBEL? YOU AND YOUR FAMBLY?



THE DANK, PUTRID STENCH HITS YOU IN THE STOMACH, BUT IF THERE'S TREASURE ON BOARD, NO MAN NOR GHOST CAN STOP YOU...

SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! HOW COME YOU KNOW OUR NAMES, CORBY?

I KNOW EVERYTHIN', THE SEA TELLS ME ABOUT EVERYBODY, I KNOW YOU'RE HERE TO FIND THE TREASURE!



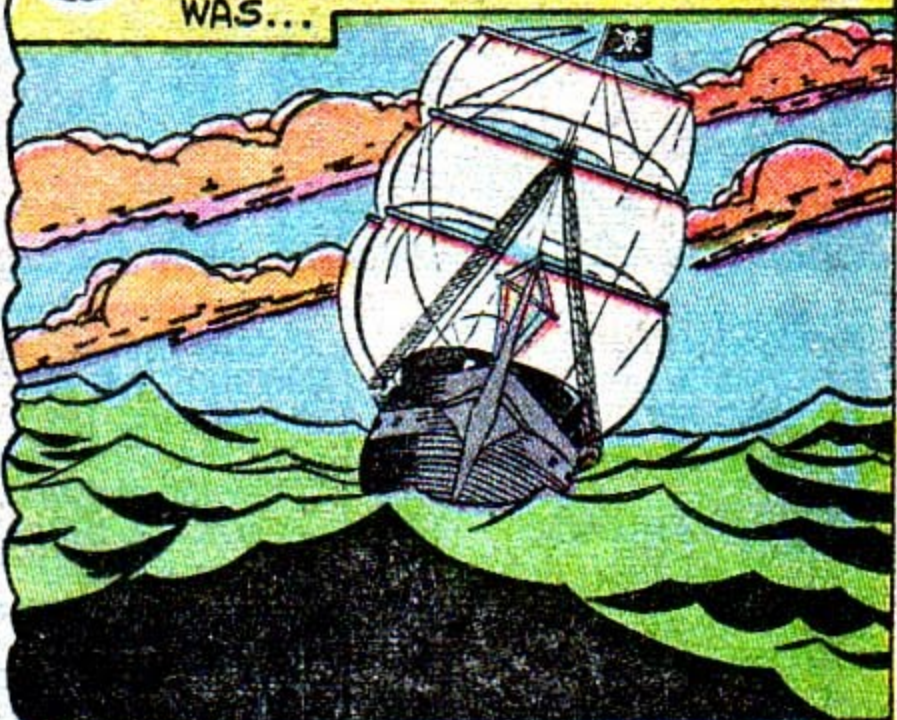
CORBY SEEMS CRACKED, BUT YOU PLAY IT SMART, HUMOR HIM, SO MAYBE YOU CAN FIND OUT SOMETHING THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO THE PIRATE TREASURE, IF ANY...

ALL RIGHT, JUBEL, I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY OF THIS OLD PIRATE SHIP, THE BLACK EAGLE! YOU SEEM FRIENDLY LIKE...

WILL YOU TELL US ABOUT THE TREASURE?

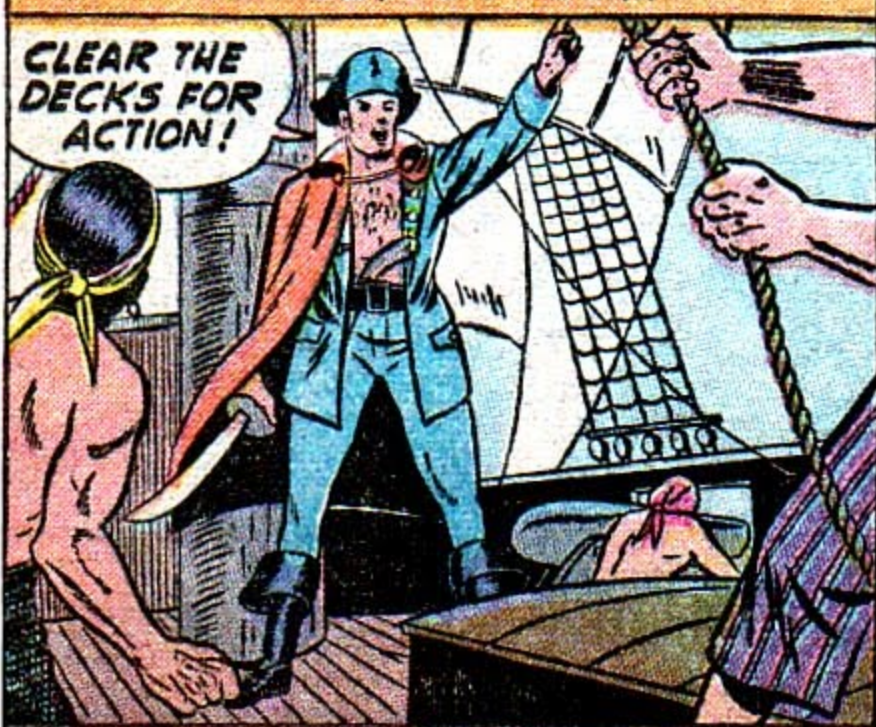


ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WE WAS THE PROUDEST PIRATE SHIP TO SAIL THE SEAS...A TRIM FAST BOAT THIS WAS...



OUR CAPTAIN, LANCE PETTIGREW, WAS A POWERFUL MAN! EVEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONED HIM TO GO ON RAIDING PARTIES, FOR A CUT...

CLEAR THE DECKS FOR ACTION!



MANY A RAID WE CARRIED OFF UNDER CAPTAIN LANCE'S ORDERS...

QUIET, MEN! THIS RAID IS FOR TREASURE, NOT SLAVES!



WHAT A HAUL WE MADE WHEN WE RAIDED THE SPANISH COLONY, COLON! CHESTS OF GOLD AND JEWELS WERE BOARDED ON THE BLACK EAGLE AND WE MADE A QUICK GETAWAY...

YOU LISTEN SPELL-BOUND TO OLD CORBY'S TALE OF PIRATE FREEBOOTING! HE MAY BE CRAZY AS A LOON, BUT THE STORY SOUNDS REAL...

...BUT IN FLORIDA, WHERE WE STOPPED FOR SUPPLIES, WE WERE AMBUSHED BY INJUNS! THEY GOT CAPTAIN LANCE, BUT I ESCAPED...

THIS IS WORTH A KING'S RANSOM!

BUT MY CLEVER CAPTAIN LANCE DECIDED TO KEEP THE TREASURE FOR OURSELVES, SO WE LEFT OUR COURSE AND STARTED FOR MEXICO!

CORBY, GET BACK TO THE SHIP! KEEP THE TREASURE TILL I COME BACK FOR IT! I'LL BE BACK!

I'LL BE WAITING, CAPTAIN, EVEN IF IT'S FOREVER!

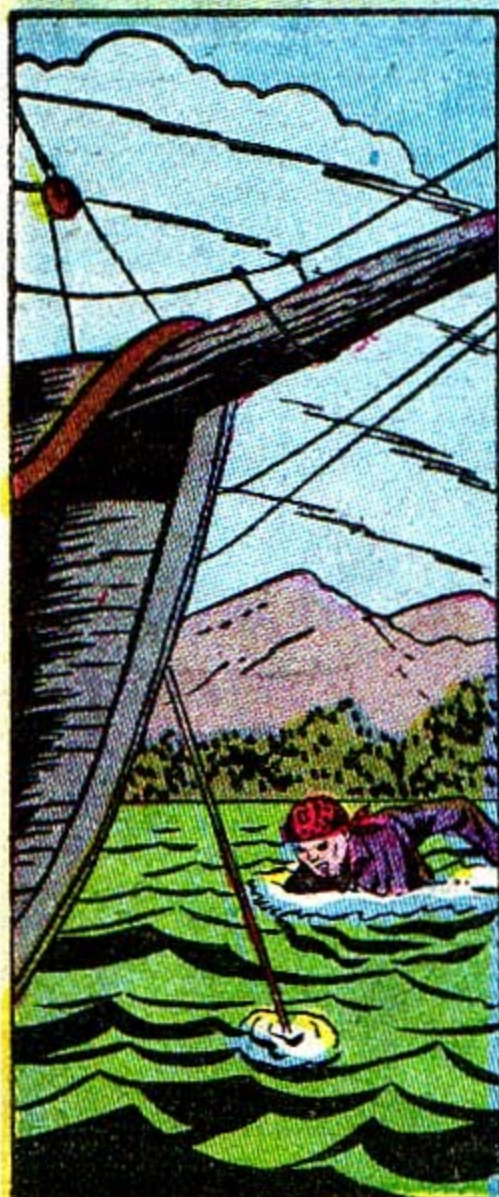


I SWAM WITH ALL MY STRENGTH AND CLIMBED ABOARD THE BLACK EAGLE...

...IT WAS ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS AGO THAT WE SAILED THE BLACK EAGLE INTO THIS BAY AND GOT STUCK IN THE SHALLOWS! ALL THE CREW HAVE DIED... BUT I! I'M WAITING FOR CAPTAIN LANCE! HE'LL BE BACK... AND NOW I'M GUARDIN' THE TREASURE FER HIM



YOUR HEAR YOUR DAUGHTER, LAURIE, WHISPERING TO YOU, JUST WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...



LET'S GET RID OF THE OLD LOON, SO WE CAN LOOK FOR THE TREASURE!

THE GOLD IS HERE, ISN'T IT, OLD MAN?

YEP! BUT NOT FOR YOU!





DOWN THE STINKING, PITCH BLACK HOLD, YOU GO! DESPERATION FOR THE GOLD WILL NOT LET YOU GIVE UP...



HEY KIDS! UNDER THAT KEEL PLANK... I SEE A FALSE BOTTOM! BRING THE TORCH!



YOU RIP UP THE ROTTING PLANKS... A HORRIBLE SIGHT STOPS YOU SHORT! A GIANT SNAKE HAS SLITHERED IT'S LENGTH AROUND TWO CHESTS...

I'LL PIN IT WITH MY KNIFE WHILE YOU GRAB THOSE CHESTS, LAURIE!

OKAY, POP!

SSSSSS!



YOUR DAUGHTER SLIPS AND IS IMMEDIATELY BITTEN BY THE DEADLY SNAKE...

EEEYA!



AFTER YOU KILL THE SNAKE, YOU TRY TO REVIVE LAURIE... BUT IT'S TOO LATE! LAURIE IS DEAD! YOU FEEL THAT FATE MADE HER DIE SO YOU CAN GET THE PIRATE GOLD! IT WAS MEANT TO BE YOURS...

YOUR SISTER DIED FOR US, FRANK!

TOO BAD! NOW LET'S GET THE CHESTS OUTTA HERE!



THERE IS NO TIME FOR SENTIMENT OVER LAURIE! WHEN YOU AND FRANK LOOKED AT THE TREASURE, YOU BOTH GOT EXCITED. CAN'T WAIT TO GET IT OFF THE OLD WRECK...



AS YOUR SON ROWS, YOU WONDER HOW HE CAN MAKE THE BOAT GO SO FAST...



THE STUPID IDIOT! YOUR OWN SON, ROWS THE BOAT ONTO A SANDBANK! YOU BOTH STRAIN TO PUSH IT OFF...



AS YOU AND YOUR SON PUSH, YOU SEE IT! A GRUESOM SIGHT RISES FROM THE WATER...



THIS APPARITION CHILLS YOUR SPINE! HE GRABS FRANK, PULLING HIM INTO THE WATER... YOU TRY TO STOP HIM, BUT YOU'RE HELPLESS...



YOU WATCH, HELPLESSLY, AS YOUR SON GOES DOWN, DOWN TO HIS DEATH...



WITH FRANK OUT OF THE BOAT, IT GETS LIGHTER, AND YOU ARE ABLE TO ROW OFF THE SANDBANK...



YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR MIND OFF THE TREASURE! EVERY FEW MINUTES, YOU LIFT THE LID AND DIP YOUR ITCHING FINGERS INTO YOUR WEALTH...

THE SNAKE AND CORBY WERE ACCIDENTS! THERE AIN'T NO CAPTAIN! THEY CAN'T SCARE ME!



I'M RICH! RICH!
HA! HA!
HA!



WH...WHAT'S HAPPENING...THE BOAT'S TILTING! IT'S QUICKSAND!



A TERRIBLE GHOSTLY FIGURE APPEARS...OUT OF NOWHERE! ALL YOU CAN THINK OF IS THAT HE WILL SAVE YOU...

HELP ME, STRANGER!
MY BOAT IS SINKING!

THE INJUNS
THREW ME INTO THIS
QUICKSAND!



THE ICY VOICE OF THE STRANGER FILLS YOU WITH FOREBODING! THEN, HE GRABS THE CHESTS...

STOP!
THEY'RE MINE!
WHO ARE YOU?

I'M CAPTAIN LANCE PETTIGREW! I CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS QUICKSAND, BUT YOU BROUGHT MY TREASURE! HERE TO ME!



WITH HANDS OF STEEL, THE PIRATE CAPTAIN PULLS YOU OUT OF THE BOAT... INTO THE QUICKSAND! THAT'S WHY THE BOAT IS SINKING...

YER A HAUNT! LET ME GO!
YOU CAN HAVE THE TREASURE!

YOU MUST STAY WITH ME FOR-
EVER!



SLOWLY, THE SUCKING QUICKSAND PULLS YOU DOWN, TO YOUR ANKLES, YOUR KNEES, YOUR CHEST... YOUR NECK... AND SOON, YOUR MOUTH WILL BE FILLED WITH IT...



NO! NO! HELP!
SAVE ME!
EEEHAA!

HA! HA!
HA



THE END